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REPORT TO THE THIRD MOPR CON-  
GRESS OF THE SOVIET UNION,  
BY H. STASSOVA. (Congress held  
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XII. FORMS AND METHODS OF THE AGITPROP WORK

In what forms are these campaigns carried out?

Organised meetings, visiting of homes, etc., are organised. This is an interesting thing which perhaps we should apply when we carry on a particularly big work among the women, wives of workers and housewives, in the Soviet Union.

In Germany, members of MOPR have to carry out this work according to such a plan: such blocks and so many homes must be covered by a certain comrade. He is given a definite quantity of literature, and he must visit flat after flat in the houses, to ring at each flat and attempt to agitate for the distribution of literature, collection of money, etc. These campaigns were never completed without new enrollment of members, new flow of names and distribution of a large quantity of literature.

Alongside with it takes place agitation on the streets, in the yards, by whole groups. They enter into the yard, and one of the group sings, or in a loud voice makes a small introductory speech. It is natural, that when the agitation begins the windows and ventilators are opened and as a result - the enrollment of new members.

One more method. The group speaks, not singly, but in a chorus. This increases the impression. A definite speech is made through the medium of the chorus, similar to what we do when we pass by the Tribune in a demonstration.

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tion.

Another form is delegations to parliament and various political parties, in order to turn their attention to this or another question, and to compel them to come out with speeches on the parliamentary tribunes on these questions.

Under our directions and supervision our sections abroad have taken an active part in parliamentary elections. Here it is necessary to point out a mistake which was permitted by one of our sections, which put forward in the beginning the bare slogan - "Vote for the List of the Communist Deputies." We consider that such a line is incorrect, that we must carry out in our policy the following: to call upon the members of MOPR to vote for that organisation which fully and wholly supports our MOPR demands. Full amnesty for political prisoners. Full right of refuge. Change in the jail regime, etc. Speaking so concretely, we undoubtedly would have to give an answer that the only Party which supports our MOPR demands is the Communist Party and for this reason we must vote for the list of the Communist Party.

Our sections carried out the elections in Germany both into the central, as well as in the Communal parliaments, in France, and in the United States of America.

And finally, delegations to the corresponding consuls, embassies and ambassadors with the demand either to free the prisoners or to allow them to leave the country, etc.; at times this is not limited to conversation but also to concrete action.

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So for instance at the time of one of the events in Italy our German organisation in Berlin sent a delegation of workers to the Italian consul with a protest, and when he did not accept them all the windows in the building were broken with bricks.

We consider that such methods are very useful in order to show our enemies that they have to deal not only with our tongues, not only with our words, but also with the calloused hands of the workers.

Comrades, in connection with those campaigns, which we carried out and are carrying out, I would like to call your attention to one point which frequently trips us here and abroad. This is the winter campaign which is carried out around the old Christmas. Some of our exceedingly "left" comrades declare that at the present time it is not appropriate to take part and utilise the possibility of giving to the prisoners in these days books, presents, etc., saying that in giving things on this day, it seems we take part in a Christian celebration.

Comrades forget only one thing. Take again our example. In the Tsarist times we utilised both the Easter and Christmas and all possibilities in order to send news to jail. The aim itself is important for us, so that the prisoner should receive physical and political support on the one hand, and on the other hand the question consists in how you organise this campaign. I will tell you how this is done in Germany. Beginning from the month of November there is carried out partially visits, and  
partially

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partially sending of letters to all the institutions which exist in the given town, municipality, to all the traders, etc., with a request to give what is possible, and then within a certain time, for instance a week, the collectors visit the same addresses and what is the result?

Inasmuch as all are preparing for the Christmas holiday, hearts are opened up and the donators give Christmas toys, and clothes and all kinds of products, fuel, etc., and all this is brought to the local MOPR committee. On the eve of Christmas, which is particularly celebrated in Germany, in the largest hall of the city, a meeting is called to which are invited first of all the families of the political prisoners, secondly all the donators, and then all the members of the MOPR. There takes place an official meeting, at which presents are given to the families of the political prisoners.

In the beginning there are official political greetings and then the distribution of presents. During the political part, agitation takes place of those strata which MOPR would not otherwise reach, and as a result after this we always receive an influx of new members into the MOPR organisation.

Undoubtedly the Executive Committee is wholly and fully correct when it declares that we need not take issue as to the time: what is important is the content which we put into it.

I would like to point out here another point which we can bring from the Soviet Union. This was also done on the initiative of our brother organisation in Germany.

It

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It establishes the birthday of the political prisoner and informs all the organisations about this day through the press.

On the date of birth of any political prisoner from all over Germany come letters and cards of greetings addressed to this political prisoner. You can see this picture? Into the postal department of the local city, addressed to one and the same name, come in endless numbers letters and postcards. The postal official sees that they are all addressed to one and the same name.

What is the matter? He begins to read these postcards, and turns attentions to the fact that the letters addressed to the name of a political prisoner in jail are all from MOPR members. He becomes acquainted with MOPR organisation. You can picture to yourself that the jail office is going crazy from such an avalanche of letters. The MOPR organisation with its actions grips by the throat and forces attention to its strength.

This is a good method. You can picture to yourself, if on the date of the birth of any one political prisoner, let's say into an English or Indian jail, will begin to come from the Soviet Union thousands of letters. Why, this will call attention and will compel the post office officials to think over - what is this MOPR?

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